ARLINGTON CULTURAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – July 19, 2013 (approved 9.19.13)

Present: David Ardito, Roly Chaput, Barbara Costa, Nora Mann, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Adria Arch
Guest: Ted Fields, Economic Development Coordinator

Call to order 7:35

ITEM 1: Conversation with Ted Fields

The Commission impressed upon Ted the need for an Arts and Culture Liaison, who would be a funded staff position within the town government and that the town needs to recognize arts and culture as an economic driver of our town.
Ted Fields spoke about a number of economic initiatives he will be working on with the town:
    promoting arts related businesses
    investigating ways public art can help foster a better economic climate
    shopping rates
    the role of performance art in increasing buzz in our commercial districts
    trying to broaden the horizon of commercial property owners and encourage them to rent to arts related business with the goal of having more galleries and studios
    trying to work with the Housing Corporation of Arlington on affordable homes and studios for artists in Arlington

He noted the demographics are good for arts related businesses in town.

The role of the Commission can be to increase awareness and appreciation of arts and culture, especially, public art in town. We need to take stock of what has been done and how it can be ingrained into the life and branding of our community.
Further, we can advise the town about which events have worked and which have not and help to come up with identities for each section of town, such as "Feed Your Soul" for Arlington Center.

Evaluation forms or raffles were suggested as ways we could assess successful events and collect names of those who attended.

Stephanie will bring in the Arlington Cultural Council final report form as a place to start in developing an evaluation form.

Other suggestions:
- Supply businesses with incentives to support art
- Work toward becoming an MCC Cultural District
- Apply for an Adams Grant.
- Try pop-up installations in empty storefronts again.
- Create an art map or walking tour

Ted Fields Closing Statement:
"We view the arts related economy as very important. We want to build arts related business and consider arts and culture as part of the business community. We want to attract artists to town to work and live."

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes

May Minutes were approved with one change. Tova Speter's name is listed both under "present" and under "guests". Her name will be removed from the "present" line.

June minutes taken by Barbara Costa in Stephanie's absence last month will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Next meeting was set for September 19, postponed from September 5 due to Rosh Hashana.

ITEM 4: Reports on external meetings

Adria met with Rose Austin (APA), Eliza Burden (AC), Joe Curro (Selectman), and Barbara Costa (Cultural Commission, APA, and ACA board member)

Rose, who worked at the MCC, advised us to leverage our funding to get more funding. For the Adams grant, we need three collaborators plus the town. Joe Curro said that we need warrant articles to go after funding and an Arts and Culture Liaison.

Adria attended the Master Planning meeting and in breakout group, she and Jane Howard were very vocal about the need for an Arts and Culture Liaison and a 1% for art policy.

ITEM 3: Assignments over the summer

Subcommittee on Drafting Recommendations on public art decommissioning:
Dave and Stephanie

Develop job description for Arts and Culture Liaison:
Adria

Subcommittee to plan October meeting with Rose Austin and future meetings with cultural orgs:
Nora and Barbara

ITEM 4: To Do List

Develop Mission Statement
Document what we have learned
Change the name of the Cultural Commission – Nora will talk to Adam
Develop Advisory Board
Develop Invite list - Rose Austin will be the guest for the October meeting

(Adam Chapdelaine is keeping an eye out for a new 7th member)

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 7:30pm,

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Recording Secretary